

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). No election broadcast/telecast by any political party in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh was refused because of the use of the word "Vande Mataram". The election broadcast by Bhartiya Janata Party from AIR, Jaipur did not materialise as the Election Commission of India did not permit the use of words "Jai Shri Ram" in the script submitted by BJP. Similarly, the election telecast/broadcast by BJP from Doordarshan Kendra and All India Radio, Lucknow could not take place as the script contained certain references which in the opinion of the Election Commission were not in the interest of national unity or the conduct of free and fair election. The Election Commission advised for modification/deletion of these portions before telecast/broadcast which were not accepted by the State Unit of Bhartiya Janta Party.

Anti-Social activities in Mahila Ashram, Kanpur

3279. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that Mahila Ashram, Kanpur is indulging in anti-social activities viz. inadequate food to inmates, non-payment of money of the Tailoring and Knitting works by inmates, fake and false marriages of inmates, 90% of the dowry amount is retained by Ashram Authorities, selling of babies of inmates on the pretext of adoption and selling of young girls to either old persons or Rickshaw Pullers on the name of fake marriages;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d). The Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in Wakf Board, West Bengal

3280. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI E. AHMED:
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the serious irregularities and malpractices in the functioning of the Wakf Board and misappropriation of development funds for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and fraudulent transfers in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the alleged irregularities and malpractices;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken note of the report of P.K. Sengupta placed on the Table of the West Bengal Legislature;

(d) if so, the main findings of the report; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (e). The Government of West Bengal has confirmed receipt of complaints regarding the functioning of Wakf Board in West Bengal and institution of a departmental enquiry to look into them. But the report of the departmental enquiry has not been received from the Government of West Bengal although, there have been references in the Press of such report and discussion of the matter in the State Legislative Assembly. As regards misappropriation of development funds for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and fraudulent transfers in West Bengal, the Union Government has not come across any such case.

Amendment of Control of Future Trading Act

3281. SHRI SARAT PATTANYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the Control Future Trading the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 (74 of 1952) and the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1952 (12 of 1950);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which these Acts likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). An Expert Committee appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Kamal Nayan Kabra to review the working of the Forward Markets in India and make recommendations including Amendments to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 (74 of 1952), in its report submitted in September, 1994 has, *inter-alia*, recommended some amendments to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act. The Government is yet to take a view on the Committee's recommendations pertaining to the amendments to the Act.

There is no proposal at present before the Government to amend the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950. However, a three-member official committee has been constituted to review the entire Act of 1950.

Construction of Private Godowns

3282. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has got constructed private godowns for the storage of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached with the owners of such godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Food Corporation of India had recommended disbursal of bank loans for these constructions;

(e) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(f) whether any dispute regarding disbursement of loan is pending with the court; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. In 1976, the Food Corporation of India had encouraged construction of godowns through private parties under the Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation (ARDC) scheme.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The agreement was executed with the private parties for construction of godowns under the ARDC scheme. The initial hiring period was 5 years from the date of take over of godowns by FCI at the fixed rent of 40 paise & 50 paise per sq. ft. per month in rural and urban areas respectively with the option to extend the lease for further period of 1 year at the same terms and conditions.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Under the above scheme the parties, with whom agreements were executed were required to invest atleast 25% of the construction cost besides having land in their possession. The balance 75% was given to them as loan by the Commercial Banks at a concessional rate of interest of 11% per annum on the recommendation of FCI. The amount of loan paid under this scheme by the Banks was reimbursed by ARDC.

(f) and (g). The loan was not disbursed by the FCI. However there was no dispute regarding tenancy of occupation or payment of rent with any of the parties during the agreed contractual period of 5 years.

Stoppage of Entry of Foreign Print media

3283. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three national organisations of newspaper employees, the All India Newspaper Employees Federation, Federation of the PTI Employees Unions, and the UNI Employees Federation, have submitted a memorandum to

the Prime Minister on June 27, 1996 demanding the stoppage of entry of foreign media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

In their memorandum dated 27th June, '96, submitted to the Prime Minister, the All India Newspaper Employees Federation, Federation of the PTI Employees Unions and the UNI Employees Federation, have raised various issues, which are briefly given below:—

Points raised in the memorandum

- (i) Entry of foreign print media and need for legislation to implement recommendation of Second Press Commission.
- (ii) Curbing electronic media's unrestricted flow into India.
- (iii) Probe into clandestine tie-ups, alleged to have taken place between foreign and Indian newspapers and TV outfits.
- (iv) Curbing foreign electronic media's subversive propaganda against India's ethos.

Comments/reactions of the Government

- (i) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955 which prohibits (a) publication of foreign newspapers/periodicals in the country and (b) publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.
- (ii) At present, no private party is permitted to set-up radio/television transmitter in the country. Similarly, no private party is permitted uplinking facility from the Indian soil. As such, no foreign entry in the broadcasting field is allowed under the existing policy. The foreign satellite channels which are received in India are being beamed from outside the territory of India.
- (iii) In the absence of any specific complaint, no comments can be given.